

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00024 041124Z

13

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-07 CIAE-00 SP-02 PRS-01

RSC-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /040 W
----- 060256

R 040930Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9714

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

SECDEF WASHDC

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0024

LIMDIS

SECDEF FOR ISA

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BA, SA

SUBJ: RETAINING MIDDLE EAST FORCE IN BAHRAIN

REF : A. MANAMA 1045; B. JIDDA 7161; C. FBIS LONDON 040123 DEC

1. MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP MAINTAIN MIDDLE EAST FORCES ON BAHRAIN, WE FEEL, AS DOES MANAMA, THAT IT IS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT SAG TO FAVOR PUBLICLY THE RETENTION OF MIDEASTFOR IN THE GULF. BELIEVE WE REACHED HIGH WATER MARK ON THIS ISSUE WHEN SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AGREED TO CONVEY SAG SUPPORT OF MIDEASTFOR PRESENCE PRIVATELY TO GOB LAST JUNE.

2. SINCE JUNE, ARAB NERVES HAVE BEEN PUT ON EDGE BY CONTINUED SPECULATION IN U.S. PRESS OVER POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY TAKEOVER OF OIL FIELDS. VISIT OF CONSTELLATION TO GULF SERVED ONLY TO FUEL SUCH SPECLATION IN ARAB MINDS, AND FORCED SAG MIN DEF SULTAN TO STATE PUBLICLY, CONFIDENTIAL

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IN RESPONSE TO QUERY BY THE PRESS, THAT FOREIGN FLEETS

MUST BE KEPT AWAY FROM THE ENTIRE ARAB NATION, WITH
EXECPTION OF FRIENDLY PORT VISITS (REFS B & C). IN SHORT,
ATTEMPT TO GAIN PUBLIC SAG SUPPORT FOR MIDEASTFOR PRESENCE
WOULD BE A NONSTARTER AT PRESENT.
AKINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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